

May 23, 1963

Dr. Giovanni E. Magni  
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Dear Giovanni:

I particularly want to thank you for referring Baran to me. We had a very interesting conversation. Unless (as I encouraged) he takes an intervening fellowship with Levi-Montalcini, he will probably come here in December. We have in mind to try to isolate fragmentary nerve networks from brain by enzymic dissociation, and test these for biochemical and computing functions.

Some time ago I asked you about tetracycline (ester, not salt) and similar derivations of this and other antibiotics that might help to select enzyme-deficient mutants. I have not been able to find any literature on this except very old work on penicillinate esters. Can you help me in anyway?

Needless to say, here is also an approach to improving (?) the therapeutic ratio of marginally toxic agents.

As ever,

Joshua Lederberg,  
Professor of Genetics

JL:as

MAG-NI